

BOOK REVIEWS

CAUSE FOR CRUSADERS—A Hospital Fact Book. Prepared by the Council on Public Education, Association of California Hospitals, 26 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco 8, 1950.

The stated purpose of this pamphlet is to inform the public concerning "The truth about hospitals." The pamphlet achieves part of its purpose very well. The sections dealing with operating costs, health insurance and such matters contain largely factual information. The author must be commended on these portions, despite the fact that the casual reader would gain the impression that 100 per cent of the credit for modern scientific diagnostic procedures and for the improved health of the American public is solely due to hospitals.

There are other portions of the pamphlet which must give the thoughtful physician serious pause. On page 1, it is stated that,

"At first all of our hospitals were voluntary, charitable institutions. Gradually they evolved into scientific centers for diagnosis and treatment."

Readers of the *Woman's Home Companion* for April 1950 will find a contrary statement by Albert Deutsch:

"To a shocking extent hospital administrators tend to operate their laboratories as sources of profit to subsidize other hospital activities. They are maintained on the skimpiest of budgets, understaffed and have insufficient modern equipment. In many hospitals the laboratory pathologists must depend mainly on interns and residents for help. . . ."

On page 2, the author states that the purposes of the modern hospital are:

"To alleviate suffering, to seek the cause and cure of disease, to preserve and restore health, to educate those who would serve humanity in the medical sciences. Such is the tradition of your community hospital."

It seems to your reviewer that the purposes of the modern hospital are to provide a bed wherein sick or injured individuals may lie when they cannot be taken care of at home. *All of the other claimed purposes are functions of the medical profession.* If the average community hospital and the average non-profit hospital would stop trying to be a university clinic, a research center and a reflection of Hollywood's idea of an ivory tower, the cost of hospital beds would drop and the public would benefit.

The author stresses the increasing number of therapeutic techniques requiring equipment "available only at hospitals." The House of Delegates of the C.M.A. recently handled this canard in adopting unanimously the resolutions from physicians in Alameda and Santa Clara counties dealing with (a) the new C.P.S. "medical care while hospitalized contract," and (b) the resolution on hospital coercion of physicians in regard to sending out-patients for drugs, special tests, etc. The fact of the matter is that 95 per cent of the special diagnostic and therapeutic procedures required in modern scientific medical care can and *are* being provided by physicians in private practice in their private offices, departments and clinics. The hospital has merely attempted to invade some of these fields either as a result of need for additional funds or from a power complex on the part of a few administrators.

The pamphlet states that there are 385 licensed general hospitals in California according to the State Department of Public Health (32,810 beds) which include 136 non-profit hospitals (bed capacity 16,148) according to A.M.A.

registration. It also lists the vast number of federal, state and other governmental hospitals and beds, which outnumber the above over three to one.

On page 32, the question is posed, "What are the functions of a hospital?"; followed by this answer:

"To give bedside care to the ill and injured; to provide training for professional personnel; to provide facilities for scientific research. More recently programs for preventive medicine, *home care*, and rehabilitation have been developed as *functions of the hospital*."

Your reviewer suggests that this is an additional indication of the serious trend for hospital domination of medicine and medical practice both in and outside the institution. He trusts that the next edition of the book will be prepared in collaboration with a committee of the organized medical profession in California, the profession which converts a building with four walls, a roof and some beds into an institution wherein the sick and injured may be treated and cured.

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CLINICAL ORTHOPTIC PROCEDURE—A Reference Book on Clinical Methods of Orthoptics. By William Smith, O.D., Associate Professor in Optometry and Instructor of Orthoptics, Massachusetts School of Optometry, Boston, Mass. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1950. \$8.00.

The author is associate instructor in optometry and instructor of orthoptics and visual training at the Massachusetts School of Optometry. The book attempts to "present a system of simple orderly procedures for testing and treating functional anomalies of the binocular apparatus." There are no separate chapters on anatomy, physiology, visual psychology and ocular mechanics, it being rightly assumed that anyone interested in the practice of orthoptics should be familiar with fundamentals.

The book is easily readable and contains excellent illustrations of the various instruments used in orthoptics. The diagrams on the whole, however, are rather poor and in some instances as on page 35 the muscles are mixed up. There are numerous errors in the book such as the one on page 251 where the author states that limitation of down-and-out movement of the affected eye is one of the important signs of superior oblique palsy.

The author takes great delight in stating that cycloplegia prevents accurate diagnosis and believes that surgery is only valuable in a small percentage of squints. There are a tremendous number of cases presented, all of which end in complete cures.

A less prejudiced viewpoint, together with the avoidance of the many errors, combined with the author's ability to write a very readable book, might have resulted in an extremely valuable book on the subject. As it is, the book cannot be recommended for ophthalmologists or technicians because of the errors that are easily discoverable.

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THE PATHOLOGY OF ARTICULAR AND SPINAL DISEASES. By Douglas H. Collins, O.B.E., M.D. (Liverpool), Reader in Clinical Pathology in the University of Leeds. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1950. \$7.00. 331 pages.

Most standard textbooks of pathology are limited in the amount of space given to the diseases of the bones and joints. Usually there is an adequate discussion of the tumors of bone in such standard texts, but the physician has much more occasion to deal with the diseases than with the tumors of the joints and the bones. Dr. Collins has for 15 years col-

lected specimens illustrating the various stages in the pathology of the articulating surfaces of the bones and in the bone structure itself. He has presented the result of this intensive study in this small volume. Perhaps the average physician does not care to delve into the fine points of diagnosis and classification of these rheumatic diseases, but if he does he will find in Dr. Collins' work the best short discussion of the subject.

Aside from clinical evaluation of a patient's condition there are three methods available to the physician for pinpointing the diagnosis, i.e., biochemical analysis, radiographic examination, and histological examination of biopsy material. No single approach will completely satisfy the requirements for correct diagnosis. The author has so arranged his material that the physician reading the radiologic interpretation of the joint films can then find a short concise discussion of the pathological process involved. He also gives the necessary chemical deviations for each disease. When necessary he uses simple diagrams to describe the course of the disease process and then illustrates with excellent photomicrographs the histopathology, and with occasional radiographs and photographs of the gross specimens he gives a complete picture. It is to his credit that he also emphasizes that more than one disease process can be present in a joint concurrently. This concept is important from the standpoint of treatment as well as classification and is perhaps too little emphasized.

Although it is not the purpose of this study to present a detailed discussion of the tumors of bone, there is a chapter which outlines the subject in such a fashion that with the aid of the bibliography the physician should be able to expand readily as the need might arise any particular section of the discussion. In general, the bibliographies are well chosen for each of the 17 chapters. The first three chapters deal with general anatomy and embryology, histology and physiology, and a short review of bone diseases. There is a short chapter on the relation of trauma to joint disease. In addition to the chapters on gout, osteoarthritis, and rheumatoid arthritis there is a good chapter on disorders of the joints in diseases primarily affecting other systems. This chapter includes discussion of atrophy and contractures, rickets, scurvy, purpura, hemophilia, endocrine disorders, syphilis, yaws, leukemia, and hypertrophic (pulmonary) osteoarthropathy. The inclusion of such a chapter makes the book more valuable as a reference source.

In reading this book one is struck with two concepts, i.e., that the joint diseases involving the peripheral joints and the joints of the spine should be treated separately, and that there are many more reasons for diseases of joints than just rheumatoid and osteoarthritis. There is an excellent chapter on rheumatoid arthritis from the standpoint of etiology in which the relation between rheumatoid arthritis and rheumatic fever, the relation between rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, the relation between rheumatoid arthritis and peripheral vascular disease, comparative pathology and experimental arthritis (in farm animals, rabbits, rats, and mice) and endocrine factors are discussed. For the rheumatologist, the radiologist, and the orthopedic surgeon this book constitutes important required reading. For other physicians and for medical students it should prove interesting and informative.

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SAW-GE-MAH (MEDICINE MAN). By Louis J. Gariepy, M.D., Northland Press, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1950. \$3.00.

Your reviewer enjoyed this book very much. Not only was it an interesting novel dealing with the progress of a boy of humble origin up through pharmacy, general practice

and a specialty, but it also had woven into it many of the author's ideas in regard to the present-day social, economic and public relation problems of medicine.

He does this by emphasizing the importance of the general practitioner in the world of medicine, and the necessity for building good private physician-patient relationship (upon which all public relations rest) by means of competence, kindness, hard work, personal attention and fair fees.

Excellent reading for both physician and layman.

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PENICILLIN—ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATION. Under the General Editorship of Professor Sir Alexander Fleming, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Second Edition. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1950. \$7.00.

One welcomes the second edition of Sir Alexander Fleming's book on penicillin, which is certain to present an authoritative discussion on the subject. In this edition Sir Alexander has called on numerous colleagues to write various chapters and the applications of this important antibiotic in every field are fully exposed. Penicillin is now so well known that its use has become pretty well standardized so one does not find a great deal that is new, but as a definitive reference book this treatise is certainly outstanding.

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NAVAJOS, GODS AND TOM-TOMS. By S. H. Babington, M.D., F.I.C.S. Greenberg, Publisher, 201 East 57th Street, New York 22, 1950. \$3.50.

A pleasant, worthwhile story of the author's travels in the Navajo Indian country while serving as physician to the Ansel Hall archeological expeditions.

The general reader will be interested in Dr. Babington's description of the remote, rugged but beautiful country, the scenery, the flora and fauna, the archeology and the old cliff dwellings. Physicians will enjoy his studies of the health of the primitive people, their sanitation or the lack of it and the methods of their medicine men. There are some very good details of these medicine men in action which the author was privileged to observe. Their treatment of the sick by means of chanting, incantations and by painting of symbolic pictures in the sand is psychosomatic medicine in its aboriginal form.

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BREAST DEFORMITIES AND THEIR REPAIR. By Jacques W. Maliniac, M.D., Clinical Professor of Plastic Reparative Surgery, New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1950. \$10.00.

Mammaplasty has until recently been accepted by the general surgeon with considerable indifference. This has been due to a lack of appreciation of the patient's predicament, and perhaps more often due to a lack of knowledge of the proper operative techniques. In Maliniac's book, "Breast Deformities and Their Repair," the purpose is primarily that of showing the general surgeon, who has no special experience in the field, which are the safe procedures for correction of breast deformities. The book is composed of 11 chapters with 119 illustrations. It is well written and the illustrations are numerous and good. Operative procedures are well described and an extensive bibliography is given. One is impressed that the author has gone to considerable thought and effort in writing this book in a concise and yet thorough manner. The average surgical textbook does not cover this subject sufficiently for the general surgeon who is considering doing mammaplasty. This book does so very satisfactorily and it can be recommended to the general surgeon who may desire to become interested in mammaplasty.